



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

August 15, 2006

Dear K-12 Superintendents, ISDs, PSAs, Executive Directors, and TPIs:

Entry-Level Standards for Michigan Teachers (ELSMT) were first adopted by the State Board of Education (SBE) in August 1993. These standards were aligned with entry-level teaching standards developed by the Interstate New Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium (INTASC). In 1998, the ELSMT were amended to include a seventh standard in technology. In 2002, the ELSMT were adjusted again to support recommendations from the SBE special task force, "Embracing the Information Age", the Professional Standards Commission for Teachers (PSCT), and to align with National Educational Technology Standards for Teachers (NETS-T) developed by the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE). This action was taken to assure that candidates prepared by Michigan teacher preparation institutions will have the essential skills to use technology to support instruction and other professional responsibilities.

This revised draft of the ELSMT increases the emphasis on a teacher's ability to work with all students in response to the current practice of including disabled students in most classrooms. No Child Left Behind legislation also expects that educators have obtained the knowledge and skills for instruction of all children. For these reasons, the inclusion expectation is more visible in this draft.

In November and December 2005 two forums were held to provide an opportunity for interested individuals to read, discuss, and respond to proposed changes. In addition, at the request of the SBE, all of the proposed changes to the ELSMT were distributed to a sample of local and intermediate school districts, all teacher preparation institutions, all forum participants, and relevant educational organizations for public comment regarding the revisions.

Based on public and SBE feedback, the standards have been extensively revised and reorganized. The current draft, crafted by a representative committee and informed by documented research, is ready again for public feedback. Because of the large number of changes, the customary presentation for review that indicates changes from a previously approved document was not utilized. The reader is encouraged to compare these proposed standards with the ELSMT and related proficiencies that were approved in 2002:

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/ELSMT_&_PED_as_SBE_approved_Oct__24_02_57198_7.pdf

Along with the draft that was presented to the SBE, although not approved, in August 2005:

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/ITEM_D_131892_7.pdf.

Note the following:

- The proposed title of the revised standards is "Professional Standards for Michigan Teachers." This is to emphasize that professional development related to the standards is a career long effort.
- Only one sample of the related proficiencies (Standard 2 only) is presented for review at this time. The working committee wanted to receive feedback from the public and from the SBE on the developmental presentation before designing rubrics for each of the other standards and sub-standards.

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Your comments and recommendations regarding the proposed standards are greatly appreciated. The drafts and an electronic version of the response form can be found on the menu at:

http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-5234_5683_6368-33926--,00.html.

Forward all responses by September 29, 2006 to Claudia Nicol, by facsimile to 517/373-0542, or e-mail to nicolc@michigan.gov. Questions regarding the standards may be directed to Bonnie Rockafellow at 517-373-7861 or rockafellowb@michigan.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Flora L. Jenkins".

Flora L. Jenkins, Ph.D.
Director
Office of Professional Preparation Services

FLJ: BR:cn